which groups of migrants have visited various districts of the Valley and interacted with the locals with a view to pave the way for the return of the migrants.

Atrocities on Christians

212. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have instituted any enquiry into the recent incidents of atrocities on Churches and members of Christian community in several State;

(b) whether Government have got in touch with concerned State Governments to find out and bring to book culprits responsible for such activities;

(c) if so, what are the findings thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) The Central Government has, on 29.1.99, appointed a Commission of Inquiry, consisting of Mr. Justice D.P. Wadhwa, a sitting Judge of the Supreme Court of India, to inquire into the killing of Mr. Graham Stewart Stains, an Australian national, and his two sons in Village Manoharpur. District Keonjhar, Orissa. The Commission has been asked to submit its report within 60 days.

(b) A Central Team was deputed to Gujarat on December 30, 1998 to interact with senior State Government functionaries in connection with the situation arising out of reported attacks on Christians and their institutions in the State and to ascertain the steps taken by the State authorities to control the situation. The Central Team recommended several confidence building measures to defuse the situation and ensure communal harmony. Based on the report of the Central Team, appropriate instructions were issued.

(c) Though 'Police and 'Public Order' are State subjects as per the Constitution of India and maintenance of law and order and prevention of crime is primari ly the responsibility of the State Govern ments, the Central Government has been taking several measures to keep the com munal situation under control and pro vide necessary protection to the minorities. After the recent incidents in volving minorities, the Chief Secretaries of the concerned States have been ad vised to issue suitable instructions to the district law and order enforcing au thorities to respond immediately to the complaints relating to harassment of minorities and initiate prompt and effec tive action to identify and punish guilty persons.

(d) The Government is firmly of the view that acts of violence against any community, wherever and in whatever form they occur, must be dealt with sternly and exemplary punishment award to the prepetrators of such violence.

Attack on Christians in Gujarat

213. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons injured, the value of property damaged and number Churches destroyed in attacks on Christians in Gujarat during the last three months;

(b) the details of reports submitted by the Central Government team sent to enquire into incidents of attack on Christians in that State; and

(c) what measures Government have taken to check recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) According to available information, 24 persons were injured in attacks on Christians in Gujarat during the last three months.

"Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects under the Constitution of India.

The registration, investigation and detection of crime as well as the prevention of crime are primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. Details of individual cases are not maintained at the Central level.

(b) and (c) On 30.12.1998, a Central Team was deputed to Gujarat to interact with senior State Government functionaries in connection with the situation arising out of reported attacks on Christians and their institutions in the State and to ascertain the steps taken by the State authorities to control the situation. The Central Team recommended several confidence building measures to defuse the situation and to ensure communal harmony. Based on the report of the Central Team, appropriate instructions have been issued.

Stoppage of work on Panchgram Bhairavi Road

214. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN. Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for which Government ordered to stop work on the Panchgram-Bhairavi Road, connecting Assam and Mizoram, after completion of survey and preparation of estimates by the NEC, which was to start in 1998-99; and

(b) whether Government would review the order and allow the North Eastern Council to start work immediately in the interest of people of Assam?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) As advised by the Government, the North Eastern Council has asked the Assam P.W.D. to carry out only survey and investigation work of the Project for the time being as it is necessary to get the approval of the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) of the Government of India before funds can be released for the project.

Suicides attributed to lotteries

215. SHRI AKHILESH DAS:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a number of suicides committed by those ruined by lotteries, in different areas of Madhya Pradesh, towards the end of 1998;

(b) if so, the number of such cases in different parts of the country during 1998; and

(c) whether, despite entry 40 in the Union List in Seventh Schedule of the Constitution no law to prohibit or regulate lotteries floated by Government agencies at the Centre or the States has been brought before Parliament for enactment so far; if so, the main reasons for not bringing forth such an enactment?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Information about the suicides committed by persons ruined by lotteries is not maintained by the Central Government.

(c) In order to regulate the lotteries, The Lotteries (Regulation) Act, 1998 has already been enacted.

Inter-Ministerial differences over Naga Peace talks

216. SHRI SITARAM KESRI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that inter-ministerial differences and responsible for delaying the on-going Naga Peace talks; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken to iron out these differences and make the peace talks a success?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.